

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A plasma arc torch comprising:

a torch handle having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion;

a torch head disposed within the distal end portion of the torch handle,

the torch head adapted for receiving an electrode of the plasma arc torch;

a torch lead operable with the torch head and extending from the proximal end portion of the torch handle;

a solenoid disposed within the torch head and operable with the torch lead and the torch head to control a supply of gas; and

an activation member operable with the solenoid,

wherein the activation member activates the solenoid such that gas flow is supplied from a power supply through the torch lead and to the torch head for supply to a plasma arc chamber of the plasma arc torch, proximate the electrode, and the activation member deactivates the solenoid such that the gas flow is terminated, such that operational pressure adjacent the torch head is maintained by the solenoid.

2. (Previously Presented) A plasma arc torch comprising:

a torch handle having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion;

a torch head disposed within the distal end portion of the torch handle,

the torch head adapted for receiving an electrode of the plasma arc torch;

a torch lead operable with the torch head and extending from the proximal end portion of the torch handle;

a solenoid disposed within the torch head and operable with the torch lead and the torch head to control a supply of gas; and

a trigger system operable with the solenoid,

wherein the trigger system activates the solenoid such that gas flow is supplied from a power supply through the torch lead and to the torch head for supply to a plasma arc chamber of the plasma arc torch, proximate the electrode, and the trigger system deactivates the solenoid such that the gas flow is terminated, such that operational pressure adjacent the torch head is maintained by the solenoid.

3. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a plasma arc torch, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a source of gas;

providing an activation member operable with a solenoid disposed within a torch head distally from a handle of the plasma arc torch, the torch head adapted for receiving an electrode of the plasma arc torch; and

operating the activation member such that the solenoid is activated, thereby providing the gas for supply to a plasma arc chamber of the plasma arc torch, proximate the electrode, such that operational pressure adjacent the torch head is maintained by the solenoid.

4-8. Cancelled.